
ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Sanitary and
Housing Conditions

OF THE

Kirkham Urban District

FOR THE YEAR 1948.



L. FAY, M.D., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

KIRKHAM :

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OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
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Sanitary and Housing Conditions
OF THE
Kirkham Urban District
FOR THE YEAR 1948.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Kirkham
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Eighth Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1948.

I wish to express my appreciation for the courtesy and co-operation which I have invariably received from the Council and my fellow officials.

AREA.—The Area of the Kirkham Urban District is 940 statute acres.

POPULATION.—The population of the Kirkham Urban District for the year 1948, for the purpose of statistics, is 4,704. The population (Census 1921) was 3,892. The 1931 Census gave the population as 4,031. It would appear therefore that in a quarter of a century the population of Kirkham has increased very slightly.

The number of inhabited houses (Census 1931) was 1,064, and 1,293 at the end of 1948, according to the rate books.

THE RATEABLE VALUE of the District was £30,445, and the sum represented by a penny rate £121.

BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATE.—The Live Births reported by the local Registrar as occurring in the Urban District of Kirkham during the year ended 31st December, 1948, numbered 104 (males 53, females 51). Birth rate 22.1 per 1,000; Still-births Nil.

DEATHS AND DEATH RATE.—The number of deaths registered locally as belonging to the Kirkham Urban District during the year 1948 was 57 (males 27, females 30). Death rate 12.1 per 1,000.

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES:—

	Death rate per 1,000 total births		
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis ...	Nil	...	Nil
Other Maternal Causes	Nil	...	Nil
TOTAL Maternity Mortality	Nil	...	Nil
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age: TOTAL			2
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births			19
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births			19
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births			Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			7
„ „ Measles (all ages)			Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)			Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...			Nil

KIRKHAM U.D.

POPULATION—

For Birth Rate }
For Death Rates } 4,704

		Per 1,000 of estimated population.				Maternal Mortality Rate.	
Live Birth Rate.	Crude Death Rate.	Death Rate from Tuberculosis of respiratory system.	Death Rate from Cancer.	Per 1,000 Live Births	Per 1,000 total Births.	Rate of Deaths under 1 year live Births.	
Mean of 5 years,							
1943-47	19.8	13.3	0.24	2.29	2.56	2.56	51
Year—1947 ..	22.0	12.3	0.23	2.09	Nil	Nil	10
1948 ..	22.1	12.1	0.21	1.48	Nil	Nil	19

Increase or decrease
in 1948 on—

5 years' average,							
1943-1947	+ 2.3	—1.2	—0.03	—0.81	—2.56	—2.56	—32
Previous year	+ 0.1	—0.2	—0.02	—0.61	Nil	Nil	+ 9

CAUSES OF DEATH.

PHTHISIS.—One death was registered as due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—The deaths of children under one year of age numbered 2 (males). Infantile death rate 19.

TABLE CAUSES OF DEATH.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

There are no hospitals in the district, but advantage is taken of those in the neighbourhood, viz.:—

- (1) The Fylde Hospital at Moss Side, near Lytham, for Infectious Diseases.
- (2) Preston, Fylde and Garstang Hospital at Elswick for Smallpox.
- (3) Elswick Sanatorium for cases of Tuberculosis.
- (4) Preston Royal Infirmary for serious accidents and surgical operations.

Wesham Park Hospital, adjoining Kirkham, has also an Infirmary, and receives necessitous cases, and those of maternity when required. The accommodation is very good, and is not only used by this district, but also by the Fylde Rural District, Blackpool, Fleetwood, Poulton and Lytham St. Annes.

With regard to hospital administration, Committees are formed consisting of representatives from the various Councils of the area.

POOR LAW INSTITUTIONS.—As mentioned above, use is made of the Wesham Park Hospital.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—The Ambulance facilities for the district are very good.

(a) For Infectious Cases: The Moss Side Isolation Hospital has a Motor Ambulance for conveyance of patients to the Hospital. The Elswick Sanatorium has also a Motor Ambulance for tuberculosis patients.

(b) For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases: Private Ambulances may be hired from Preston or Blackpool or locally for those who can afford to pay the cost. The provision of such service for necessitous cases is undertaken by the Council by arrangement with a private motor ambulance hirer.

The cost of hospital treatment for infectious diseases to the local authority was £498 10s. 2d. for the year ended 31st March, 1948.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.—A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is provided by the County Council, and is situate in Mellor Road. A weekly session is held each Thursday at 2 p.m.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.—Use is made of the Dispensary at Elswick Sanatorium. This is under the care of the Medical Officer of that Institution.

SCHOOL CLINIC.—The Medical Inspection of School Children is carried out in all Schools by the School Medical Officer acting under the County Council, who, under the new scheme, is also the Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District.

VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC.—Treatment is given at the Preston Royal Infirmary under a scheme of the County Council.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

For nursing in the home there is the Kirkham and Wesham District Nursing Association. This is maintained by subscriptions from members of the Association and employs one Nurse, who attends cases of illness, with the exception of infectious cases, in their homes in the districts of Kirkham and Wesham. No co-ordination exists with the local authority, and no financial obligations fall upon the authority. Midwifery cases are not undertaken by the Association.

LABORATORY WORK.

The examination of specimens for the detection of the Diphtheria organisms has been carried out at the Preston Royal Infirmary Laboratory. One examination was carried out during 1948 for Diphtheria.

Specimens of sputum are sent to Elswick Sanatorium for the detection of the Tubercle Bacillus.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF LOCAL ACTS OR GENERAL ADOPTIVE ACTS.

There have been no new local Acts or adoption of any Acts during the year.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Refuse is collected weekly and is dealt with in three ways. All tins, cans, etc., are taken to St. Annes, as there is no baling machine at Kirkham. Paper is baled by the Council and sold to a paper firm. All other refuse is dealt with at the controlled tip in Carr Lane.

SCHOOLS.

The medical inspection of school children under the Education Act is carried out in all Schools in the district by the School Medical Officer, acting under the County Council.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified, number of deaths from these diseases, number of cases removed to hospital, and deaths in hospital during the year 1948.

Five cases of Scarlet Fever, all sporadic, occurred during 1948, which were removed to Hospital. Three Diphtheria notifications were received.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

The campaign against Diphtheria was continued during 1948. The scheme was organised by the Public Health Department, and having received the approval of the Lancashire County Council, was eligible for a grant of 50 per cent. from the County Council. Advantage was taken of the free provision by the Ministry of Health of immunising material; alum precipitated toxoid was used in doses of .2 and .5 c.c. at intervals of one month.

The injections were given by the Medical Officer of Health during 1948.

1.—PRE-SCHOOL AGE.

No. of children immunised, 1948	Total immunised	Available population Age 1—4 incl.
25	283	81%

2.—SCHOOL CHILDREN.

No. of children immunised, 1948.	Total immunised	Available population Age 5—15 incl.
10	629	91%

Facilities are available for any child to be immunised at the Clinic on the third Thursday of each month between 10—12 and 2—4 p.m., without previous appointment.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1948.

DISEASES.	CASES NOTIFIED.														HOSPITAL.	
	Total Cases at all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over.	Total Deaths.	Total Cases removed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital of Persons belonging to District.
Smallpox																
Scarlet Fever	5					1	4									
Diphtheria & Membranous Group ..	3					1	1	1								
Enteric Fever (inc. Paratyphoid) ..																
Acute Primary Pneumonia	7						2			2		2	1	2		
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia																
Puerperal Fever																
Puerperal Pyrexia	1									1						
Cerebro-Spinal Fever																
Acute Poliomyelitis																
Acute Polio-encephalitis																
Encephalitis Lethargica																
Dysentery																
Ophthalmia Neonatorum																
Erysipelas																
Malaria contracted abroad																
Do. In this country																
Any other diseases notifiable in district, e.g.,—Chicken-pox																
Measles and German Measles	10		1	2	2	2	3									
Whooping Cough	5			1	3	1										
Any other disease																
Totals	31		1	3	5	5	10	1		3		2	1	2		

TUBERCULOSIS.

Under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1 case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was notified during the year.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1948.

		— NEW CASES —				— DEATHS —			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
AGE PERIODS		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— 1	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1— 5	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10—15	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—20	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—25	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—35	.....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
35—45	.....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
45—55	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55—65	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	.....	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0

The notification of Tuberculosis in the district as a rule is good, and there has been no need to take action in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

PUBLIC HEALTH (Prevention of Tuberculosis) REGULATIONS, 1925.

There has been no action taken under these regulations relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade.

The district is under the care of the Medical Officer of the Elswick Sanatorium. Every week notifications of tuberculosis (if any) are sent to the County Medical Officer. The Tuberculosis Officer visits each patient with the Medical Attendant and, where necessary, domiciliary or sanatorium treatment is given. On the occasion of death or removal to a sanatorium the dwellings are always disinfected.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

L. FAY, M.D., D.PH.

Kirkham

Urban Sanitary Authority

*To the Chairman and Members of the Kirkham
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting my second Annual Report on the work done in the Sanitary Department during 1948.

During the year 47 notices and letters have been served with regard to the abatement of nuisances and the remedying of insanitary defects.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—The Scavenging of the whole District is carried out weekly.

The work is done by the Council's men and motor under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Average weekly number of loads of refuse dealt with at the Tip: 30.

				Conversions during 1948		During 5 years 1943-47	
No. of Privy Closets:—							
To fresh-water closets		...	...	7	...	...	4
To pail closets		...	...	None	...	...	None
No. of Pail Closets:—							
To fresh water closets		...	...	None	...	...	None
To waste water closets		...	...	None	...	...	None

	Conversions during 1948	During 5 years 1943-47
--	----------------------------	---------------------------

No. of Waste Water Closets:—

To fresh water closets		None		None
------------------------	--------	------	--------	------

No. of houses at which movable ash-
bins have been substituted for
fixed receptacles

... ..	2		12
--------	---	--------	----

Is there any definite policy at the present time for
abolishing privy middens and pail closets? No.

Does the Council contribute towards the cost of
conversion? No.

What kind of closet accommodation is being pro-
vided for new property? All fresh water closets

The following are the number of closets and ash-pits:—

Fresh water closets	... ..	1,384
Waste water closets	... ..	0
Privy closets	... ..	3
Privy ash-pits	... ..	2
Dry ash-pits	... ..	0
Ashbins in towns	... ..	1,103

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—No rivers and streams pass through the district.

SEWERS AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM.—The sewerage, in conjunction with that from Wesham, runs to tanks at Newton and then into the River Ribble. The sewerage disposal works consist of two detritus tanks, six settling tanks, and 14 sludge beds. The sewerage is pumped from the settling tanks in the sludge beds. These tanks were constructed in 1941.

No. of houses connected direct to sewer		1,259
---	--------	-------

No. of houses connected to septic tanks		34
---	--------	----

Estimated number of houses on the water-carriage system		1,293
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WATER SUPPLY is good and ample, and is under the control of the Fylde Water Board.

The water mains have been flushed by the Fylde Water Board's workmen at different times.

All the houses in the town are supplied with Fylde water.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTIONS.

No. of disinfections after death or removal of tuberculous cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
No. of houses disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
No. of Schools disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of Library and other School books disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30

All cases are visited upon receipt of notification. After the death or removal of patients for either hospital or sanatorium treatment the rooms are thoroughly disinfected with formalin.

SCHOOLS.

The Schools are inspected regularly and found satisfactory. All the Schools are supplied with Fylde water, and have fresh water closets connected direct to the sewer.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

Number on Register: Nil.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Number of premises: None. Type of offensive trade: None.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

(1) INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories with Mechanical power ...	115	5	—
Factories without Mechanical power	—	—	—
Other premises under the Act (including Building and Engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises)	8	1	—
Total	123	6	0

DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.			Number of Defects in respect of which Prosecutions were Instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	12	12	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	3	3	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	3	3	1	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .	1	1	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7):—				
Insufficient	1	1	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—
Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—	—
Total	21	21	1	—

Number of Factory and Works' Chimneys in the District ...	7
Number of Black Smoke observations	10
Time Limit Allowed—Minutes per hour	6

LIVESTOCK (RESTRICTION ON SLAUGHTERING)
(No. 2) ORDER, 1940.

MINISTRY OF FOOD ORDER WHICH CAME INTO OPERATION
JANUARY 15TH, 1940.

None of the three Registered Slaughter-houses have been used during the year.

All animals destined for food have been killed outside the district and the meat brought in and allocated to our butchers.

FOOD CONDEMNED.

1,101 lbs. Apples.	53 lbs. Lemons.
1,906 lbs. Oranges.	134 lbs. Grapefruit.
5 lbs. Curry Powders.	3 cwts. Potatoes.
9 lbs. Grapes.	32 tins Milk.
4 galls. Pickles.	15 lbs. Cake.
12 lbs. Spam.	33 lbs. Pears.

SHELLFISH (MOLLUSCANS).

Particulars of any shellfish beds or layings which may be in the district: None in District.

MILK SUPPLY.—Action taken with regard to milk, including inspection of farms and dairies, the Administration of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1933 and 1938.

Under the Milk and Dairies Act, 1936, there are 9 Registered producers and retailers of milk, and 3 Registered retailers only. 21 inspections have been made to these premises, which have been kept in a clean, sanitary condition.

All the farms are supplied with Fylde water.

No. of Registered Cheese Factories	1
No. of Registered Cowkeepers, including Dairy Farms	9
No. of Milk Purveyors (other than Cowkeepers)	3
No. of Licences issued to Dealers in respect of Tuberculin Tested	1

Approximate number of Dairy Cows in district 120

Number of Licences issued in respect of Pasteurised Milk—

Pasteurising Plants 1

Retail Distributors None

Part of the milk supply is brought in by farmers from the surrounding districts.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Particulars of any action taken under provisions of—

(a) Shops Act, 1934 None

(b) Public Health Act, 1936 None

CAMPING SITES—None in district.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT—SANITARY INSPECTION.

No. of Premises visited	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	240
„ „ Defects or Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
„ „ Preliminary Notices served by Inspector	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
„ „ Statutory Notices served by Order of Council	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
„ „ Nuisances remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
„ „ Drains opened out and defects rectified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
„ „ Defective roofs and gutters repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
„ „ Houses repaired inside	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
„ „ Defective w.c. basins and cisterns	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25

RAG FLOCKS ACTS, 1911 AND 1928.

Number of premises in district in which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold:—

Number of inspections.

Number of samples taken.

Results:

None in District.

HOUSING.

Number of houses on Rate Books 1,293

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) By the Local Authority 51

(b) By other bodies or persons None

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

1. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AS TO HOUSING CONDITIONS. The general housing conditions are fair, mostly working-class houses of both parlour and non-parlour type. More repairs to houses have been carried out, due to easing of licence restrictions.

Approximate number of back-to-back houses in the district:
None.

Comment on the extent to which housing matters have been affected by the changed conditions during the year under review:
No great change.

Sufficiency of supply of houses: Approximately 200 houses are required of the three-bedroom type.

Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

No. of Houses inspected for housing defects 46

No. of Inspections made for the purpose 92

Remedy of defects without service of formal notice 36

No. of Houses inspected and recorded under Housing Act,
1925-32 Nil

Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

No. of Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 4

No. of Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:—

(a) By Owners 1

(b) By L.A. in default of owners None

2.—HOUSING SCHEMES. Particulars of any housing schemes in hand or completed during 1948:

Plans in hand for 46 houses, of which work on the first 22 will start early in 1949. These are in addition to 83 now completed.

3.—OVERCROWDING. Comment briefly on the position with regard to overcrowding conditions in the area: The main cause of overcrowding in the district is the cessation of building for the six war years and a 5 per cent. increase in population. There are still 175 applications for Council houses, of which 123 are from persons "in rooms."

4.—CLEARANCE AND IMPROVEMENT AREAS. Give particulars of any action taken during 1948: None.

Notable sanitary improvements during 1948: None.

OVERCROWDING. HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV.

(a)	No. of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	81
	No. of families dwelling therein	112
	No. of persons dwelling therein	448
(b)	No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	30
	No. of cases relieved during the year	51
	No. of persons concerned in such cases	204

DISINFESTATION.

Particulars of action taken during 1948. Number of houses found to be infested:—

Council Houses	... ..	None
Other Houses	... ..	3

Number of Houses Disinfested:—

Council Houses	... ..	None
Other Houses	... ..	3

Methods employed for Disinfestation of Houses:—

Zyklon absorbed hydrogen cyanide fumigation.

Is the work of disinfestation carried out by the Local Authority or by a Contractor? : When required, by contract with the London Fumigation Company.

Methods employed for ensuring disinfestation of belongings of tenants before removal to Council Houses:—

All furniture and goods are put through the fumigation van.

I am, yours obediently,

J. ECKERSLEY, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., R.P.

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

